Amendments To Specification

Please amend the second paragraph on page 15 of the specification as follows:

Figure 5 shows the right side of apparatus 20 in the retracted position, and Figure 6 shows the left side. The preferred arm apparatus comprises various mechanical components and a fluid-operated actuating system which includes a pair of primary hydraulic actuators (sometimes referred to herein as hydraulic cylinders or cylinders). Preferably, the arm apparatus includes a base that is comprised of a series of parallel components, including right base link 36, first intermediate base link 38, second intermediate base link 40 and left base link 42 (see Figure 12). The preferred base is adapted to be mounted onto the frame of a vehicle such as vehicle 23. The invention also contemplates that some of the other members of arm apparatus 22 may be comprised of parallel or paired components, such as, for example, left reach link 44 and right reach link 54. It is also contemplated that each of these parallel (or paired) components of the preferred embodiment may be replaced by a single component, such as a single base link and a single reach link.

Please amend the third paragraph on page 17 (which continues onto the top of page 18) of the specification as follows:

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A slave actuator or cylinder is preferably included in the arm assembly of the invention in order to provide better control during the operating cycle. Thus, as shown in the drawings, clevis 92 is attached to left reach link 44, and the base of slave actuator 94 is pivotally attached to clevis 92 at pivot 96. Rod 98 of actuator 94 is pivotally attached to upper link 48 at a first intermediate position, pivot 100, between the first end and the second intermediate position (at pivot 50) of upper link 48.

Please amend the paragraph which begins on line 4 of page 18 of the specification as follows:

As has been mentioned, preferred apparatus 20 includes container grab assembly 21 which is provided with a pair of grabbing arms 30 and 31 and a fluid-operated actuating system. First end 101 of side support arm 102 (see Figures 8 and 9) of grab assembly 21 is attached to the lower end of grab link 82 (see Figure 5) of arm assembly 22. Second end 103 of side support arm 102 is attached to gear box 104. Right gear 106 (see Figure 9) is attached to grabbing arm 30 and both are mounted on right shaft 107 (see Figure 7); left gear 108 is attached to grabbing arm 31 and both are mounted on left shaft 109. Gears 106 and 108 are meshed together within enclosed gear box 104. Preferably, a suitable lubricant is provided in the gear box to further protect the gears. As shown in Figures 7 and 8, the gear box has a first (or upper) side 105 and a second (or lower) side 111. Left shaft extends through both first side 105 and second side 111 of gear box 104; however, right shaft 107 extends through only the second side 111 of the gear box. The base of grabber actuator or cylinder 110 is pivotally attached to clevis 112 at pivot 114, and clevis 112 is mounted on side support arm 102. Rod 116 of cylinder 110 is pivotally attached to second end 117 of drive link 118 at pivot 119 on top of gear box 104. First end 120 of the drive link is attached to shaft 109, so that retraction of rod 116 into cylinder 110 from the position shown in Figure 8 will cause drive link 118 to pivot to the right (as viewed in Figure 8) about a pivot axis through shaft 109 causing grabbing arms 30 and 31 to close from the position illustrated in Figure 8 to the grab position illustrated in Figure 12.